Grammar Mini Lesson: “Quotation Marks”

*Class:* Grade 9 Applied English

*Purpose*:

* Refresh students’ understanding of proper use of quotation marks.
* Enable students to know and apply proper grammar mechanics when writing, speaking and presenting spoken words in written form.
* Allow students to expand their writing potential by incorporating dialogue.

*‘Quotation’ Definition:* A group of words taken from a text or speech and repeated by

someone other than the original author or speaker.

The RULES:

1. Use quotation marks before and after a direct quote.
2. Put quotation marks around the titles of short works, such as articles, songs, short stories or poems.
3. Place quotation marks around words, letters or symbols that are slang or being discussed or used in a special way (underlining has a similar purpose).
4. Use single quotation marks for quotation marks within quotations.

*Common Errors & Correct Usage*

**** Example 1) “I think my leg is broken,” Jesse whimpered.

**\***If the quote comes before the person who spoke, place a comma after the quote.

Example 2) “Did Mrs. Steele just say, “We are going to have a test today?”

\*If the quote comes after the speaker, place a comma after the speaker and verb.

****Example 3) “I can’t move,” Maria whispered, “I’m too scared.”

\*A quote separated by the speaker is a split quotation. Begin the first part of a split quotation with a capital letter and end with a comma. Begin the second part of a split quotation with a lower case letter.

****Example 4) Have you heard the song “Love Me Tender,” by Elvis Presley?

\*Always capitalize names of works in quotations.

****Example 5) I have a hard time spelling “miscellaneous.”

\*Any punctuation used goes to the left of the second quotation mark. However, if the punctuation is used to punctuate the whole sentence and not just what is inside the quotation marks, then it goes to the right.

Example 6) “Have you read the poem, ‘The Raven,’ by Edgar Alan Poe?” I asked Chris.

\*Quotation marks used inside of a quote are always single quotation marks.

*Resources:*

Joanne Feierman (1995) *Action-Grammar: Fast, No Hassle Answers on Everyday Usage and Punctuation.* Toronto:Simon & Schuster.

Jane E. Aaron (2007) *The Little Brown Handbook.* New York: Longman.

*Quotation Mark Exercise Sheet*

1. Circle the correct sentence:

1. “The bald eagle is a symbol too, said Liam.”
2. “The bald eagle is a symbol too,” said Liam.
3. “The bald eagle is a symbol too”, said Liam.
4. Add quotation marks where appropriate to the following sentences:
5. I don’t know what kind of parade to have said Betsey.
6. What kind of a name is Princess for a dog anyways?
7. Ok class, said the teacher, tomorrow we will use the computer lab to complete the assignment.

3. Identify the errors in the following sentences, then rewrite them using correct punctuation and quotation marks.

1. Marissa likes American history so much that she told her teacher “,I’d like to learn more about the American Flag”!
2. Sasha said “kittens really are such better pets than dogs.”
3. John interrupted excitedly, “I know that the new “Harry Potter” movie is coming out next Tuesday”

Comic Dialogue:

Using the comic strip below write a brief paragraph describing the dialogue between the characters. Use proper quotations when referring to the characters’ quotes. For example: After turning to the left, Nate said to Calvin, “Here he comes!”

